13th August 1956]

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know whether the communication received from the Central Government was only with reference to Hindu Religious Shrines and Endowments or was it with reference with Religious Shrines and Charitable Endowments in general?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : I do not have the particular information here but I know that it is with regard to religious institutions.

Sri S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI : The Hon. Minister has been telling this House repeatedly that the High Court decision is against such utilization. May I know whether the Hon. Minister will inform the House very clearly whether the Government approve the principle of the suggestion, namely, the diversion of the funds for educational purposes and if they approve will it not be possible for them to have the Act amended to give effect to the principle?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : The Government propose to bring in a comprehensive legislation in due course.

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP : The Hon. Minister stated that the Government made such a provision which was declared invalid by the High Court. That was so because it related specially to Hindu Religious Shrines and Endowments. If a provision is enacted that the surplus funds of all religious institutions without excluding the institutions of any denomination or caste could be diverted, I am sure that it will be declared valid. Will the Government take such a step to utilize the funds of all religious institutions irrespective of the fact whether they belong to Hindus or Christians?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN : We will await the action of the Government of India in this matter.

Extension of service to the Chief Engineer (General), Public Works Department

* 73 *Q.*—Sri K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have granted any extension of service to the Chief Engineer (General), Public Works Department, and if so, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : No, Sir.

Ticketless travel in Government buses

* 74 *Q.*—Sri N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) the steps taken by the Government to check ticketless travel in buses of the Government Transport; and